

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-04

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 USIA-06

EB-07 IO-13 SCS-03 SS-15 FS-01 A-01 IGA-02 HUD-01

TRSE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 /096 W
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R 281105Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5839

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0374

STATE FOR AID/FDRC

PARIS FOR RFC

PRETORIA FOR RBFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFIN AID MP

SUBJECT: CYCLONE GERVAISE DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS

REF: (A) 75 STATE 028732, (B) 75 PORT LOUIS 557, (C) 75 PRETORIA 2678

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT REF A I INFORMED GOM SHORTLY AFTER CYCLONE GERVAISE IN FEBRUARY 1975 THAT USG PREPARED TO MAKE \$25,000 CASH DONATION TO GOM FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR CYCLONE VICTIMS. SUBSEQUENTLY GOM ASKED THAT CHECK BE MADE OUT TO "PRIME MINISTER'S CYCLONE RECONSTRUCTION FUND", I INFORMED PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THAT I WOULD ARRANGE TO DO SO AS SOON AS GOM WOULD GIVE ME REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT USG CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE PROMPTLY USED FOR GENERAL PURPOSE INTENDED. THE FACT IS THAT THE ABOVE GOM FUND, WHICH NOW REPORTEDLY TOTALS APPROX \$450,000 EQUIVALENT IN RUPEES FROM BOTH DOMESTIC AND
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FOREIGN SOURCES, HAS NOT RPT NOT TO DATE BEEN USED BY GOM IN

ANY WAY FOR RELIEF OF CYCLONE VICTIMS. IN MID AND LATE 1975
I REMINDED PRIME MINISTER SEVERAL TIMES THAT I WAS STILL HOLDING
US DOLLAR CHECK FOR OUR PLEDGE AWAITING GENERAL ASSURANCE MENTIONED
ABOVE. HIS ONLY RESPONSE WAS TO EFFECT THAT GOM STILL "MAKING
PLANS" TO PROVIDE NEW HOUSING FOR THOSE WHO LOST THEIR HOMES IN
CYCLONE, THAT POTENTIAL RECIPIENTS STILL BEING SCREENED TO ELIMINATE
ILLEGITIMATE APPLICANTS AND THAT HIS RECONSTRUCTION FUND HAD
GROWN TO SUCH SIZE THAT US CONTRIBUTION NO LONGER ESSENTIAL.

2. IN VIEW OF SAD FACT THAT EVEN NOW MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER
CYCLONE PRIME MINISTER'S FUND IS STILL TOTALLY UNUSED BY GOM,
I BELIEVE TIME HAS COME FOR THIS SUM TO BE RETURNED TO DEPARTMENT
WITH HOPE THAT IT COULD BE BETTER UTILIZED ELSEWHERE FOR OTHER
DISASTER RELIEF NEEDS. THEREFORE EMBASSY WILL RETURN TREASURY
CHECK NUMBER 2,990,513 TO RFC PARIS VIA RBFO PRETORIA IN NEXT
POUCH FOR CANCELLATION. ASSUME RFC PARIS WILL SETTLE DISPOSITION
OF ACCOUNT DIRECTLY WITH DEPARTMENT AND FDRC.
MANHARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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